

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of April 23, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,629,072 to Thelen, *et al.* (hereinafter Thelen). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thelen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,359 to Ladd, *et al.* (hereinafter Ladd). The disclosure and the drawings were also objected to in the Office Action.

Amendments to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as being difficult to read, for including typographical errors, and for failing to properly identify components referred to in the Specification. Applicants express gratitude for being made aware of these issues and for the opportunity to correct them. In response to this objection, Applicants have drafted a formal set of drawings and have included them herewith as a replacement set of drawings to replace the previously submitted drawings. Applicants believe that all drawings requirements are now met and respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Amendments to the Abstract

Although, no objection was noted in the Office Action to the Abstract, Applicants have nonetheless amended the abstract to correct typographical errors. Namely the word "recognising" has been replaced with the word "recognizing". No new subject matter has been added to the Abstract.

Amendments to the Specification

In the Office Action, page 3, several objections to the disclosure were noted. Applicants express gratitude in being made aware of the errors in the disclosure and for the opportunity to correct them. First, the Office Action notes that trademarks have been included in the Specification and have not been appropriately denoted per MPEP 608.01(v). In this response, Applicants have amended the Specification to properly denote the trademarks included and respectfully request withdrawal of this objection. Second, the Office Action points out that objects referred to in the Specification have not been clearly shown in the drawings. As noted above, a replacement set of drawings has been included with this response and newly submitted FIG. 1 now clearly shows items 112 and 116. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of this objection. Finally, the Office Action identifies several typographical errors that require correction, in particular paragraphs [0042] and [0045]. These paragraphs have been corrected as suggested in the Office Action and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Applicants have also amended the abstract to correct other typographical errors. Namely, the word "recognising," or its other forms, has been replaced with "recognizing" or its equivalent form. No new subject matter has been added to the Abstract.

Amendments to the Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5 and 6-9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Thelen, alone or in combination with Ladd. However, on page 8 of the Office Action, it is noted that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-9, as originally submitted, define over the references of record, Applicants in order to expedite prosecution have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 5 and intervening Claims 2, 3, and 4. Applicants have also amended

Claims 8 and 9 to include limitations as recited in Claim 5 and intervening claims 2, 3, and 4. Applicants have also cancelled Claims 2, 3, 4, and 5 in this reply.

Applicants respectfully assert that any amendment and/or cancellation of claims in this response should not be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter. As stated above, Applicants are not conceding by these amendments and cancellations that any previously submitted claims are not patentable over the references of record. Applicants' present claim amendments and cancellations are only submitted for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter identified in the Office Action. Applicants therefore reserve the right to pursue any previously submitted claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicants also present new claims 10 and 11. These claims recite the subject matter of claims 6 and 7, respectively, but are dependent on amended claim 8. Applicants additionally present new claims 12 and 13, reciting the subject matter of claims 6 and 7 respectively, but dependent on claim 9. No new subject matter has been added by these amendments.

Accordingly, as independent Claims 1, 8, and 9 now include the allowable subject matter of Claim 5 and all intervening claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims now define over the references of record. Furthermore, as claims 6, 7, and 10-13 each depend from one of Claims 1, 8, and 9 while citing additional limitations, Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims also now define over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the

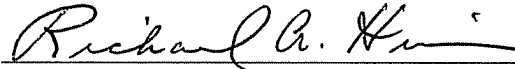
Appln No. 10/660,900
Amendment dated July 23, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2007
Docket No. GB9-2002-0053US1 (380)

Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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